THE Lions' Pride
OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

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Freaking-out Freshman

KATIE GAISER
Lions' Pride Layout Editor

Freshman year was one of the most rewarding and enriching years of my life. However, it didn't start out that way. I remember walking into the gym on day one of my Saint Leo experience feeling like my stomach was going to drop right out of my body. I was surrounded by a sea of strangers I didn't want to meet and a heavy share of informative pamphlets I had no desire to read. My only source of comfort was a single friend I had from home who was also attending Saint Leo.

I was soon separated into my orientation group. To my dismay, I discovered my friend, Meg, was in a completely different group. I was alone. I knew no one. I freaked out. One minute, I was in the safe, secure environment of my high school, and the next I was a real college girl, independent, self-sufficient, and strong, right? Wrong! I was insecure, terrified, and alone.

To make matters worse, a different friend of mine from home was in my orientation group. However, he wasn't a friend as much as he was an enemy. My worst enemy. Out of no where, I was standing face to face with him. I shivered with anger and resentment. Of all the groups that year, he just had to be in mine.

But, like most situations I've encountered in life, I saw a silver lining. I started breathing and smiling at people in my group. I started joking with my orientation leaders and tried to be more out-going. To my surprise, my worst enemy ended up being my best friend that day. He stood by my side, and together, we made a real impact on the group. By nightfall, we were all friends. We laughed and joked like we knew each other for years.

My story is so common. I came, I was nervous, I made a friend, and I was fine from there. However, my point is to inform all the new freshmen that everything is going to be great. It's hard at first, but once you make a friend and surround yourself with people you like, it's all a breeze from there. Remember, everyone is going through the same thing. Find comfort in knowing that the sweating fool to your right and the seemingly confident cheerleader to your left are just as close to puking as you are. Be confident and out-going and you shall be rewarded. Good luck.

Working for *The Lions' Pride*

SIMONE WILLIAMS
Lions' Pride Ad Manager

The Lions' Pride is one of many job opportunities available at Saint Leo University that offers real world experience. The newspaper is completely student-run and growing with each passing year. It is a paid work-study and non-work study job open to everyone of all years and majors. It has had multiple names since its birth. In addition to *The Lions' Pride*, SLU newspaper has gone by *Anarchy* and the *Monarch*. Working for *The Lions' Pride* is also a great way to boost a resume, enhance writing skills, and meet great new people.

Running a newspaper and maintaining a competent staff is a tough job; Mrs. Valerie Kasper, the esteemed faculty advisor of *The Lions' Pride*, seems to handle the job pretty well. Mrs. Kasper brings experience and patience to the table when dealing with *The Lions' Pride*. If ever there is a problem, Mrs. Kasper almost always has a solution. Amateur writer or not, Mrs. Kasper can teach any and everyone a few things about writing.

Speaking of writing, it is the main reason most people join the newspaper staff. They enjoy writing and/or enjoy reporting the news. But, not everyone on *The Lions' Pride* wants to be a reporter. There are some who want to be teachers, join the Peace Corps, and even become social workers. *The Lions' Pride* is a place to gain valuable and consistent experience. This experience is something that can boost a resume from ordinary to extraordinary.

Writing for a college newspaper has two sides to it: a good side and a bad side.

2007-2008 team of editors photographed in front of Alcatraz during the 2008 spring Journalism conference in San Francisco.

While on one hand, writing can be a source of pleasure; it can also be a source of anguish. It should be admitted that writing for a college newspaper is fun and personally rewarding. After hours spent gathering and organizing information, writing it all down, and editing it, seeing the finished product in print is like seeing a child learn how to tie his shoes.

But, writing for a college paper is a frustrating process with logical, sequential steps. While gathering information sounds easy, it isn't always. There will be times when people will lie in interviews, or even refuse to give up information. Other times schedules don't work out and interviews have to be cancelled, or the reporter can't go to an event he or she has to cover. But not to worry, the staff of *The Lions' Pride* knows the meaning of hard work and team effort. So, they are always there to help.

As stated before, *The Lions' Pride* offers great opportunities for enhancing a resume. One great way is by growth. At *The Lions' Pride*, there are ways to advance from being a staff writer to a section editor or even editor-in-chief. Almost everyone starts as a staff writer. After a semester as a staff writer, the second semester is devoted to promoting from within. While everyone does the same work, minus the delegation and layout work of the editors, having editor-in-chief on a resume looks pretty good.

Editor-in-Chief Kristin Brittain started

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Save icebreakers for your breath: Other ways to make friends on campus

BY JESSICA SWANSON
Lions' Pride Copy Editor

Ah, Icebreakers gum. Good for minty fresh breath and making friends. The method is simple. Step one: remove stick of gum from pack. Step two: offer gum to nearby orientation attendees or just wait for extra hands to appear in front of you in the hopes of receiving free gum. Step three: share said stick of gum, while introducing yourself. And success, friendship achieved!

However, Saint Leo University does not provide incoming freshmen with a pack of Icebreakers gum. Instead, students have to resort to making friends using the other less minty version: Saint Leo orientation icebreakers. These cute, embarrassing little games are designed to forge and strengthen the emotional bond between incoming Saint Leo students. And, it stands to reason that incoming freshmen aren't exactly attending orientation for the icebreakers. Most students are there to learn about their new lives as freshmen (or more importantly, the dance party). Also, orientation icebreakers can only do so much, as incoming students are sorted into various groups according to prospective major. At the end of orientation, most freshmen leave having become really friendly with the rest of the people in their groups and that's it.

More importantly, what do the incoming freshmen do about making friends when they come back to Saint Leo in August? As a freshman, making new friends on campus can be a very

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One Tank Trips - SLU Eating Out Edition

Thomas Scaglione III
Lions' Pride Entertainment Editor

Saint Leo University offers many sources for student entertainment, most notably the near monthly movie nights in Selby Auditorm and the occasional trips to theme parks for the discounted Saint Leo price that our Campus Activities Board (CAB) arranges. However, these events sometimes don't fit into the busy schedule of incoming freshmen students who get classes spread throughout all hours of the day or perhaps signups for such events close out even before the commuting senior has time to hear about such deals! Well, do not fear fellow Leo Lions, for there is a new section in town, and its name? One Tank Trips!

Now besides the tawdriness of the old western television metaphor mentioned before, this article is sure to inspire students to give the local atmosphere a try. Saint Leo, Dade City, San Antonio, and Zephyrhills might not come to mind when thinking of hip hangout scenes and rocking party lives, but there are certain hidden treasures and untapped potentials in many of these historical towns.

While other issues of One Tank Trips may focus on concert venues, play theatres, movie theatres, shopping malls, and maybe even fashion, this first edition will focus on the local dining scene.

While the school's dining services are quite exceptional, it is often nice to get out of the routine and go somewhere else with a group of friends, to either relax with a quick snack or indulge in a palatable meal (all in fewer than 6 miles!) that you know you'll have to pay for later on the treadmill.

The first stop on this black-and-white, two dimensional journey of stomach pleasure, is for a morning fueling of coffee and a bagel at Dade City's Coffee Mug Café on Meridian Avenue. Located across the street from the unique Café Kokopelli and its botanically aesthetic entrance way, this local coffee and sandwich shop offers a break from the hectic school scene and proposes a moment's reprieve into its cozy, sanctuary-like atmosphere.

San Ann Market pictured above in all of its old town glory. Photograph by: Brandy Scaglione

The Coffee Mug is Dade City's little gem. Offering everything from Dade City's famed Kumquat pies and brownies, to signature milkshakes and smoothies, the Coffee Mug is a great place to satisfy even the most ravenous sweet tooth. The finest novelty drinks to great espresso will delight any java lover.

The Coffee Mug Photograph by: Brandy Scaglione

The friendly service and display of local art on the walls is enough to make anyone feel at home. A quick look behind the counter will even reveal their first dollar, framed and mounted on the wall. This is to ensure that the customer always comes before the corporate advances of more widely known coffee shop empires that could care less about the needs of their clientele.

Also, to add to their eclectic originality, the Coffee Mug also offers various customer services, such as their Book Exchange program (in which the reader leaves a book of their own and takes one home to read) and its new Mug Jam, featuring live music and even a Battle of the Bands.

After such a filling breakfast, one might want to browse the shops around Dade City. While it is a beautiful town, with a vibrant history, students should be fore warned that many of the town's stores are filled with antiquities and other dusty artifacts. It can be a great chance to walk off some of those calories from the morning slice of Kumquat pie, but don't expect to find this season's hottest fashions or this summer's hottest DVDs!

Photograph by: Brandy Scaglione
Pancho's Villa is a pleasant escape.

Once your feet begin to ache, and you're done buying all of your Christmas presents in advance for your elderly family members, one might want to grab a heartier meal from a campus favorite, Poncho's Villa in San Antonio.

Students at Saint Leo quickly realize the fine dining that San Antonio has to offer.

Painted to look like an authentic Mexican cantina, its quesadillas are to die, for and all meals come with a gratuitous helping of possibly the best tasting chips and salsa this far from the Rio Grande. Poncho's is an economically priced Mexican restaurant that is a great place to alleviate your taco cravings. As a precaution, however, the restaurant does not offer free refills with their sodas, as they are served from the can, but their sweet tea is superb. As they have only a small area for dining, hungry customers would do best to arrive early before the dinner rush. It is a small establishment and a local favorite. Ponchos is located within walking distance of Saint Leo

To chill out from the summer's heat, one might then want to visit the San Antonio Market located, comfortably enough, right next to Poncho's. It has a "small town general store" feel and everything one might need, as well as a great place to grab a bite to eat. They offer a variety of snacks and other merchandise, but their exotic ice cream flavors are a big hitter among many regulars. It houses a deli/bakery that makes terrific sandwiches, as well as the ice cream bar. Students can sit on the patio located on the side and enjoy their purchases. San Ann is within walking distance of Saint Leo and quickly became a student favorite. Whatever you are just in the mood for an ice cream cone, or a famous sandwich, San Ann is always a great choice

The Coffee Mug is opened Monday through Wednesday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Thursday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 9 p.m., and on Saturday between 8 a.m and 9 p.m. Poncho Villa's is open between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Sundays-Thursday, and stay open to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

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as a staff writer her freshman year. But, because of the dedication and leadership she showed, she applied and earned the position of chief for her sophomore year. Now a junior, Brittain has done wonders for the paper. At first it was just a bi-monthly eight page paper. Now, *The Lions' Pride* has grown to 12 pages and there is even an online version.

Anyone with a passion for writing and a desire for growth is welcome to join *The Lions' Pride* team. Freshmen are especially encouraged to join. Normally, their minds are full of ideas that can help the paper, and indirectly themselves, grow to full potential. And just like Saint Leo University's motto, *The Lions' Pride* promises this: You'll love the person you become here.

For a more detailed explanation of how to properly join *The Lions' Pride*, contact Janis Lockhart at janis.lockhart@saintleo.edu.

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stressful situation. Fortunately, there are a number of places at Saint Leo that freshmen can go to in an effort to make friends.

Den in Marmion/Snyder Hall: Equipped with two flat screen televisions, an assortment of couches and other various furniture, as well as ping pong and pool tables, the Lions' Den is a popular hangout and a good place to make friends.

Recreation Rooms in Henderson and Benoit: These are somewhat smaller versions of the Lions' Den, but they are also frequented by upperclassmen who live in the associated dorms, increasing the chances of making friends with someone new.

The Cafeteria (the Caf): Located on the bottom floor of the Student Community Center and frequented by students and staff alike, the cafeteria is a good place to meet new people. Be sure to sit at the party booth (the one with the curved seat in the far left part of the cafeteria), as it instantly increases popularity status.

The Pool: On weekends and warm afternoons, the pool is a hot spot for students who want to work on their tans or spend a little free time with friends after class.

The Lions' Lair (Snack Shack): Located on the top floor of the Student Community Center, the Lions' Lair is often filled with students looking for a bite to eat when the cafeteria is closed and the microfridge is empty. It's not uncommon for students to order food and then spend the afternoon or evening relaxing in the conveniently located Student Center lobby watching television.

The Learning Resource Center (LRC): Located on the top floor of the Student Activities Center, students go to the LRC to do more than print papers or get learning assistance. Instead, they go to eat free popcorn and drink the free hot chocolate and tea that's available while studying or hanging out with friends.

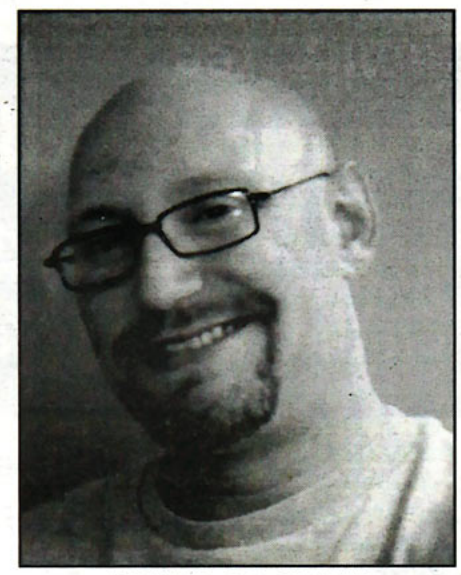
The Student Activities Center: Home to the LRC as well as a number of student-run activity offices, the Student Activities Center is a good place to pop in and find out how to get involved at Saint Leo.

The Lake Front: The lake front is the place to go for fishing and renting canoes or just enjoying the beautiful Saint Leo scenery.

Facebook.com: While not physically anywhere on campus, facebook.com is a good place to meet new people and keep up with events going on around campus.

The Lions' Pride Team of Editors

KRISTIN BRITTAIN
Lions' Pride Editor in Chief



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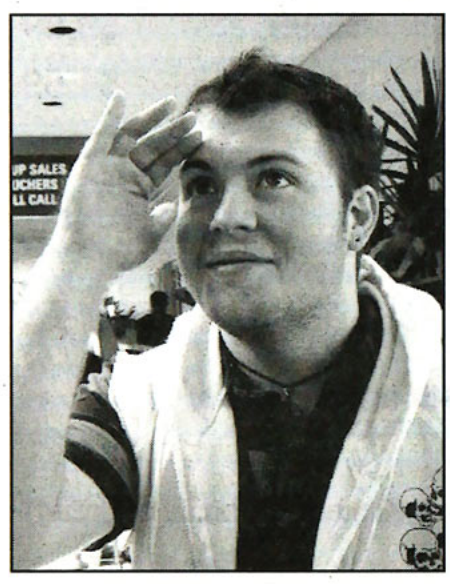

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Home away from home

Dorm decorating tips

KRISTIN BRITTAIN
Lions' Pride Editor in Chief

Going to college is a big step. It is hard to leave the comfort of home to live in a completely different place with people you hardly know. And let's face it, Marmion and Snyder isn't exactly the Ritz Carlton. To make the transition a little easier, it is essential to make the place as comfortable and as much like "you" as possible. Here are a few tips.

·**Have a comfortable place to crash.** The plastic mattresses provided aren't the best quality. So, bring an egg crate topper or for more comfort a memory foam pad (you will not regret it!). Decorate your bed using lots of comfy pillows and blankets; just be careful not to sleep in and miss class. Also, buy a brightly colored sheet and comforter set. It will add volumes to the room.

·**Decorate the walls.** It is important to make your room "your own." You can do this by using photographs, posters, post-cards, paintings, etc. The key is to do it in a creative way. Create a fun shaped collage (hearts, diamonds, etc.) using your photos, or any wall art. Make a photo trailer or border going across your room. To add more color, buy a plastic table cloth or two and tape it on your closet doors. This will brighten up your room. Plus, with a few sharpies in hand you and your roommate can tag it up.

The bed and walls are most important to decorate; they are the most noticeable things in the room. But to add more personality and comfort, bring a rug for between the beds. Also, as a fun project you and your roommate can decorate a door stopper, or small brick, to use to prop your door open. That way you can show off your great room and meet new people.

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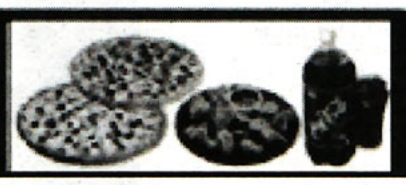

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